

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 PRS-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01

EB-07 H-02 IO-13 DODE-00 /100 W

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P R 201630Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3213

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONGEN CAPE TOWN

S E C R E T LUSAKA 1005

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR IS ZA XA EAID

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS

REF: STATE 61348

1. PRES KAUNDA IS VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE OF SAG PM VORSTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL AND WONDERS WHAT THIS MAY PORTEND IN TERMS OF SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PREPAREDNESS IN INCREASINGLY VOLATILE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION. THIS VIEW CONVEYED TO SENATOR PERCY AND AMBASSADOR DURING CODEL CALL ON KAUNDA AT STATE HOUSE EASTER SUNDAY MORNING APR 18.

2. KAUNDA AND HIS ADVISERS WONDER IF VORSTER-RABIN MEETING SIGNIFIES INTEREST IN ARMS PROCUREMENT AND EVEN NUCLEAR COOPERATION OR WHETHER IT IS MERELY A POLITICAL NOD IN DIRECTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S SUBSTANTIAL JEWISH COMMUNITY. BECAUSE OF ZAMBIAN DOUBTS OF SAG INTENTIONS, KAUNDA TOLD SENATOR PERCY

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THAT ZAMBIA IS PLAYING SAFE BY SUSPENDING ACTION ON

EARLIER GRZ THOUGHTS OF REESTABLISHING AND NORMALIZING
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

3. COMMENT: QUESTION OF ZAMBIAN REACTION TO VORSTER
VISIT TO ISRAEL CAME AS SURPRISE QUESTION RAISED BY
MRS. PERCY AS SENATOR AND HIS PARTY WERE TAKING THEIR
LEAVE OF KAUNDA AFTER HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION. UNDER
CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS DIFFICULT TO OFFER COMMENT THAT
ISRAELI GOVT HOPED THAT MODERATE AFRICAN STATES LIKE ZAMBIA
WOULD ACCEPT VISIT AS EFFORT BY ISRAEL TO IMPROVE
ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. IF ISRAELIS ARE
TO DISABUSE ZAMBIANS OF STRONG SUSPICION THAT ARMS DEAL
WAS INVOLVED IN VORSTER/RABIN MEETING, THEN WE BELIEVE
ISRAELI GOVT SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INFORMAL BUSINESS
LINKS WHICH THEY HAVE IN LUSAKA TO GRZ FOREIGN MINISTRY TO
DENY (IF TRUE) THAT MILITARY PROCUREMENT WAS INVOLVED.

4. MIGHT ALSO ADD THAT SENATOR PERCY HIMSELF (PRESUMABLY
BECAUSE OF HIS MEMBERSHIP ON BOTH NEA AND AF SUBCOMMITTEES
OF SFRC) APPEARS TO BE VERY MUCH INTERESTED BOTH IN AFRICAN
INTERPRETATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICAN AND ISRAELI MOTIVATION
FOR VISIT AND IN AFRICAN REACTION TO IT. SENATOR RAISED
QUESTION AT DINNER ON APR 17 WITH CHONA'S DEPUTY PETER
KASANDA AND AGAIN FOLLOWING EVENING WITH REPS OF SWAPO.
BOTH KASANDA AND SWAPO REPS EXPRESSED NEGATIVE
REACTIONS, WITH SWAPO UN OBSERVER GURIRAB COMMENTING
ON IRONY OF ISRAELI PLAYING HOST TO MAN WHO WAS
INTERNEED BY SMUTS GOVT DURING WORLD WAR II FOR HIS
PRO-GERMAN SYMPATHIES.
WILKOWSKI

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